

Do Tell Story Swap Summaries

January 13, 2026

Chester Weems zoomed in from Oklahoma with a wild story about how his Uncle Bill won a medal in the war. It wasn't true, or was it?

Beth Wakelee told a Chinese parable about a thief whose greed proved to be his undoing.

Renu Narayan came to the swap from India to share a story she wrote about a man who took pride in his thick head of hair until he became the object of town gossip.

Sharon Elwell shared a story about a wealthy investment broker who tried to teach his son how to invest wisely.

Vicky Ness gave us a glimpse into her wild imagination with a story about Miss Edna, who tested her powers of seduction against Mother Nature herself.

Katy Mangan concluded the evening with a story about a favorite character of her invention: a British woman who talk to trees, Shirley Anne.

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February 2, 2026

Beverly Schwartz called in from Albany, New York, to share a story about a mouse that terrorized her and her three cats.

Beth Wakelee told a traditional folk tale about a king who wanted a tower to reach the moon – always a recipe for disaster!

Kenneth Foster, zooming in from Ephraim, Utah, told a story of a wealthy man with two wives. He gave each the advice to “Spread your fingers when you eat.” One understood the meaning of that advice, but the other did not.

Laurie Reaume told about putting hours of effort into a Halloween costume only to be outdone.

Walter Wilson, in Sacramento, gave us a thrilling adaptation of Paul Revere’s famous ride.

Vicky Ness told an evocative story about an album cover with no record inside, but a profound message on the outside.

Rose Owens shared her adaptation of Jonathan Allen’s story, *Mucky Moose*. Mucky is a moose who “smells like yucky swamp juice.” How can that turn out well?

Sharon Elwell told the old story of the peddler who helped people to deal with their troubles by putting them all up on a Trouble Tree.

Renu Narayan called in from India to tell the story of a man with three vices: He was a thief, a liar, and a drinker. When he gave up just one vice, everything changed for him.

Genevieve Franklin reminded us of the long-ago presidential race between McGovern and Ricard Nixon and led us to think about the implications for our present time.

Katy Mangan ended the evening with a return to Eduardo’s word of magic and mystery, this segment centering on Eduardo’s return home after a 10-year absence.

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March 10, 2026

Vicky Ness opened the evening with a sweet story about a boy who built a house from popsicle sticks and waxed paper, where he could dance to his own tune.

Laurie Reaume entertained us with her experience trying to get a Real ID at the DMV, and ending up with a “Surreal ID.”

Rose Owens recounted a children’s story called “Thistle Honey” from the book 30 Jars of Honey by Amal El-Mohtar.

Sharon Elwell told some of the things second graders taught her during one day of teaching summer school.

Chester Weems told a joke about a trickster standing on one side of the river who was asked, “How do you get to the other side?” Do you know the answer?

Deb told about several versions of the luck of the Irish, including a piano recital where she was daunted by Mary Ann McCloud playing Debussy’s Arabesque #2.

Meg Brown gave us a delightful version of an old favorite: “Stone Soup.”

Velvella told the heartwarming tale of an old man planting carob trees that he knew he would not live to enjoy.

Renu Narayan called in from tomorrow in India to tell the story of a miser nicknamed “Stingy Man” who in a desperate moment made a vow to feed 50 people.

Katy Mangan ended the evening with a glimpse into the magic, mystical world of Eleanor, a wise healing woman.

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April 14, 2026

Marian Ferrante joined us from Antioch for a retelling of “The Great Fish,” by Peter Parnall, a delightful story of an indigenous boy and his grandfather, William Three Feathers, who teaches him to honor and care for the waterways that provide salmon to feed us all.

Sharon Elwell called in from Bremerton, Washington, to share a historical story about Luther Burbank and the genetic modification of the famous Burbank russet potato.

Beth Wakelee shared another of the delightful folktales we expect from her: this one from “When the Animals were People,” by Kate Sanger. Coyote is jealous of Bat’s beauty and finds a way to change him to his present shape.

Renu Narayan joined us from Chennai, India, with the story of two children who wanted shoes for the cold winter, and found a way to earn enough money to get their shoes and share generously at the same time.

Alicia Retes shared a part of her developing story, “The Sea and Me.” As she told of her experiences with abalone and a sea anemone, we were enthused, hoping that the rest will come soon.

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May 12, 2026

Vicky Ness began the evening with a piece about a yellow tape measure that led to “blessings immeasurable.”

Beverly Schwartz called in from New York to recount her adventures as a science teacher.

Rose Owens told Jane Yolen’s story, “Sleeping Ugly,” about a sleeping princess with a sign saying, “Do not kiss!”

Sharon Elwell told a folk tale called “A Happy Man’s Shirt,” about a sad prince and his father’s attempt to cheer him.

Chester Weems called in from Oklahoma to tell about finding an old book called *The Civil War in Song and Story*, published in 1869. The book proved to be a treasure trove for a storyteller, and he told about a “contraband,” an escaped slave, and his attempt to reach a Union ship during the war.

Brandon Spars shared Jack London’s breathtaking account of his adventures as a deputy patrolman in the Fish Patrol in San Francisco Bay, in pursuit of pirates and poachers.

Sara Armstrong told the story of a boy who found a lost pocket watch by quieting himself to listen for the ticking.

Renu Narayan zoomed in from India to share the story of a woman’s trickery that defeated her cruel husband.

Katy Mangan closed the evening with a story of Shirley Anne celebrating Beltane – including sightings of the May Queen and the Green Man.